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PEACE NEWS

The International Pacifist Weekly

No. 1,051 August 17, 1956 4d. (U.S. Air Express Edition: 10 cts.)



Keir Hardie, life-long pacifist and founder of the modern British Labour movement, addressing an anti-war rally in Trafalgar Square on August 2, 1914.

This rally, held two days before the outbreak of World War I, was followed by a split in the Labour movement. The Labour Party supported the war. The Independent Labour Party, with Keir Hardie at its head, opposed it.

Before the division, a manifesto had been issued above the signatures of Keir Hardie and Arthur Henderson calling on "the British working class," to "act promptly and vigorously in the interests of peace."

"Hold vast demonstrations in London and every industrial centre . . . There is no time to lose. Already, by secret agreement and understandings of which the democracies of the civilised world know only by rumour, steps are being taken which may fling us all into the fray. Workers, stand together, therefore, for peace. Combine and conquer the militarist enemy and the self-seeking Imperialists today once and for all . . .

"Down with class rule! Down with the rule of brute force! Down with war! Up with the peaceful rule of the people!"

Centenary of Keir Hardie

By EMRYS HUGHES, MP

"WHAT do you think is the greatest danger that faces humanity in the Twentieth Century?" This was the question that an American newspaper put to prominent public men at the beginning of 1900.

Keir Hardie's reply was "Militarism." He wrote, "The war is a capitalists' war, begotten by capitalist money, led into being by a perjured mercenary capitalist press and fathered by unscrupulous politicians."

The Boer War was raging and Hardie was one of its strongest opponents. He had joined the committee that Radicals and Quakers had set up to carry out a campaign of opposition to the war.

In the Labour Leader, which he edited, he wrote week by week criticising Government policy and attacking Joseph Chamberlain, Cecil Rhodes and those whom he argued had led the country into an unjust and unnecessary war.

HIS SPIRIT LIVES

By Fenner Brockway, MP

SOMETIMES wonder when I am in the House of Commons what Keir Hardie would be saying or doing if he were alive now and sitting on the benches beside me.

He would certainly be an explosive force.

I think he would feel rather a stranger in the Labour Party, which he established to be the political expression of the working class.

Whilst he welcomed convinced Socialists from other classes he would be surprised and perhaps a little doubtful about the high proportion of members who come from comfortable homes and have had expensive education.

He would, I am sure, often be sad about the policy of the Labour Party.

This would be specially the case in regard to peace.

Hardie abhorred all militarism, called conscription the badge of slavery, and stood for the solidarity of the workers of the world against war.

His voice would ring out today against military preparations and aggressive diplomacy, sometimes unfortunately supported from the Labour benches.

His strong, determined voice would certainly resound in the House against colonial oppression.

I remember now that the first speech I ever delivered was based on his book on India after his visit there in 1906.

Both in India and South Africa he aroused the bitter antagonism of the white communities by his defence of the Indian and African peoples.

He would passionately denounce today what is happening in Cyprus and Kenya. How I wish he were at our side in the House of Commons!

He was howled down early in August 1914 when he went to his constituency in Aberdare and declared his opposition to the war.

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MORE SUEZ PROTESTS!

500 MARCH ON DOWNING ST.

"OPPOSE WAR POLICIES"

—urge speakers

By Olwen Battersby

"TAKE it to Downing Street, take it now, let us all take it," from all parts of the hall the voices came.

It was not enough that there had been four meetings proceeding simultaneously; that men and women were standing in all rooms; that the resolution in question had been passed unanimously; that Fenner Brockway, MP, and Mrs. Barbara Castle, MP, had promised to proceed to Downing Street forthwith.

The audience demanded a march of protest; they got it.

After the meeting, an estimated 500 of the audience of 1,000 persons, led by Fenner Brockway and Barbara Castle, spontaneously marched from Caxton Hall to the Prime Minister's residence to deliver the resolution.

The resolution, which was handed to Sir Anthony Eden later that evening, acknowledged the nationalisation of the Suez Canal Company as a matter within Egypt's domestic jurisdiction and condemned the British Government for ignoring the procedures and flouting the Charter of the United Nations, by seeking to impose control of the canal by force.

It called on the Government to propose to the Conference meeting on August 16 that questions still at issue be referred to the appropriate organs of the United Nations.

"Only one thing in my view can prevent war," said Kingsley Martin, Editor of the New Statesman, "a campaign such as this."

"We must believe in disunity and not in unity, he continued.

"If the rank and file will form itself into a strong and vocal body of opposition, then the Leader of the Labour Party will follow the rank and file. No Government dare go to war with the opposition and public opinion against it."

"The one thing this Government has done is to unite a large proportion of the world against its own policy," said Fenner Brockway, in opening the meeting.

"We have now less material power than we used to have," said Fenner Brockway. "Some of us hoped that we should have greater moral power. Instead of that the British government has reduced our moral authority to a lower point than I have known for fifty years."

HELP FOR POVERTY?

Maurice Orbach, MP, who had "the great privilege of visiting Egypt on three occasions and could speak of its cities, its towns and its villages," stressed the evils of British imperial rule and the conditions of the Egyptian people.

"I met many of her people," he said, "they were living in fetid slums of Cairo, in mud huts, in conditions of the utmost squalor, with deficiency of diet, dirty water, cholera, typhus and ophthalmic disease."

Now for the first time Colonel Nasser had put before the Egyptian people great schemes for irrigation, for the improvement of the arid soil, and for the betterment of food, clothing and shelter through industrialisation.

What did the British Government do but try to wean the Egyptian people away from Colonel Nasser?

They accused him of being Fascist; the British Government had itself invited Fascist Spain to attend the conference!

He believed, nevertheless, the conference could be one step towards a United Nations agreement in regard to all the great waterways of the world. That should be the principle on which we took our stand.

INTERNATIONALISATION?

Dr. Donald Soper stressed the "entire perfidy" of the present Government's policy which pretended to adhere to the United Nations, yet bypassed the organisation where its own particular interests were concerned. By setting into motion the whole apparatus of violence before entering on consideration, negotiation or consultation, it had prejudiced the issue in a wicked and irresponsible way.

"This Government has betrayed everything this country has stood for in its most noble moments," said Mr. A. J. P. Taylor.

Whoever talked about internationalising the Suez Canal, Britain was in no position to do so, because she had resisted all efforts to internationalise the Canal in the past. So long as Egypt was prepared to be a British puppet, we were the most outspoken advocates of Egypt's independence.

"If we believe so much in internationalism, let us remember that we ourselves possess some key positions in the world: Gibraltar, Aden, Singapore, and what about Portsmouth and the Port of London?" he concluded.

NEXT WEEK

LESLIE HALE is among an all-party group of MPs which left England for China this week. Next week in Peace News he writes about his "First Thoughts on China," an introduction to the series of exclusive despatches which he will be sending Peace News during the coming weeks.

Delegation urges: "SUSPEND MOBILISATION"

Peace News Reporter

AS Peace News went to press on Wednesday a deputation organised by the Peace Pledge Union was at the Foreign Office.

They were asking the Government to suspend mobilisation and to use the London Conference as a stepping stone to negotiations with Colonel Nasser, not as a means of dictating to him.

The deputation followed correspondence between the General Secretary of the PPU, Stuart Morris, and Mr. Selwyn Lloyd, who is expected to chair the Conference.

Members of the deputation were Miss Vera Britain, a Sponsor of the PPU; Hugh Brock, Chairman of Executive and Editor of Peace News; Fenner Brockway, MP, Chairman of the Central Board for Conscientious Objectors; Emrys Hughes, MP, Hon. Treasurer; Professor Kathleen Lonsdale, DBE, FRS, Sponsor; Stuart Morris; Sybil Morrison, PPU Organiser; J. Allen Skinner, Associate Editor of Peace News.

A letter is also going to every delegate at the London Conference. With it will be enclosed a copy of Roy Sherwood's "Suez Commentary," 10,000 copies of which were reprinted in leaflet form by the PPU last week.

The Union's views on the use of force in the present crisis were set out in the following letter (also accompanied by "Suez Commentary") sent to the Prime Minister last week:

"We have followed with the most careful attention your statements on the Suez Canal

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SUEZ COMMENTARY II

Threats are madness

By Roy Sherwood

THE ineptitude of the British and French attempt to deal with the situation created by President Nasser's nationalisation of the Suez Canal by means of threats and a display of force is now beginning to show in all its inglorious magnitude.

The two Governments have been outmanoeuvred decisively by the Egyptian offer to call a conference of all the users of the Canal, announced at the same time as President Nasser's refusal to take part in the London meeting limited to participants of Britain's and France's choice. And what answer other than evasion is there to the Soviets' carefully reasoned criticism of the British-French-American arrangements and to Marshal Tito's well-founded complaint about not having been invited in spite of the fact that Yugoslavia is the rightful heir to the maritime rights of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy (which was a signatory of the 1888 Convention) and is also a large user of the Canal?

They now stand before the world with every appearance of being guilty of having tried to settle the issue by a conference "packed" in their favour; and, according to some estimates, they cannot even be certain of that conference ending with the kind of resolution which they have announced as their objective.

Even on this point of detail the Foreign Office has blundered in a way that reflects on its sincerity. For India's acceptance had at first been held up on account of the wording of the British statement that the conference was "to discuss the internationalisation of the Canal."

Asked about this at a Press conference, the Foreign Office spokesman said that while this was one of the principles on which the convening powers had agreed, acceptance of the invitation to attend did not necessarily imply acceptance of the principle of internationalisation.

With that in mind the Daily Herald used a double-column headline, "No Strings for Suez Talks," on August 8 for an article by its foreign editor, W. N. Ewer, explaining that the News Department of the Foreign Office wanted "to make it clear that the principle (Daily Herald thinks) of nationalisation would be a matter for discussion" and that the meeting was not to be "a rubber-stamp conference."

Whether the Daily Herald went to Press particularly early or The Times was given last minute information withheld from other papers, I do not know. But at the same time as readers of the one paper could learn that the London talks were not to be hampered by prefixed restrictions, the readers of the other, after having been given the same news, found the following continuation paragraph under the cross-heading "Some Misunderstanding":

"Last night, however, the Foreign Office

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WAR-LIKE GESTURES

IN announcing in the Indian Parliament the decision of the Indian Government to be represented at the Suez Canal conference to be held in London, Mr. Nehru deprecated the violence of the British reaction to the action of Colonel Nasser.

He referred to the formidable display of force that the British Government was arranging as "war-like gestures," and went on to say, "I would still hope that they are not war preparations."

War-like gestures! What, when other people do it, we call sabre-rattling! And one of the world's outstanding statesmen is constrained to hope that the British Government is a Government of sabre-rattlers, because that is the least damaging construction that can be put upon what is taking place.

Sir Anthony Eden declares that the Government is not seeking a solution by force. He wants peace. So, for that matter, did Hitler.



BUT there is no doubt about the air of menace that accompanies the actions of the British and French Governments in the present situation.

We have, of course, been familiar with this kind of thing many times in the past. It is the first time that it has happened, however, since the statesmen have begun to build their hopes of a peaceful world on the safeguard of universal terror.

This deployment of the means to war by Britain and France is the first substantial threat of the "stalemate" era, which opened when the Powers came together at Geneva and recognised in common that resort to war must henceforth be put out of their calculations as a factor in the settlement of disputes between nations, because war in the future, if the major powers became involved, would mean the probability of universal destruction.



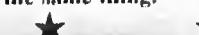
WHAT is happening today is a menacing indication of just how precarious is this "stalemate" type of peace through fear and the matching of "deterrents".

Britain and the US decide to "put Nasser in his place" by a brusque and unmannerly announcement of the withholding of promised aid. Nasser has to face the danger of being shaken in his position unless he can find a counter-stroke.

He finds his counter-stroke in an equally brusque and unmannerly decision regarding the Suez, and not only saves his face but gets a united Egyptian people behind him.

The British Government is concerned about economical transit for its oil supplies. The French Government fears that a success for Nasser will make even more hopeless its hopeless struggle in Algeria.

So then the sabre-rattling begins. Adjustments in the alliances begin to be made. There is a lining up on two sides throughout the world. There are voices in France that begin to call for the enforced reoccupation of the Canal Zone, and there are similar voices in Britain, like those of Captain Waterhouse for the Conservatives and Mr. R. T. Paget for Labour, that seem to be calling for the same thing.



THIE trouble with sabre-rattling is that if its object refuses to be intimidated by it, there comes a time when the rattle has to choose between appearing pusillanimous and drawing the sabre.

The sabre is drawn in the hope that the theories of the strategists of a carefully limited warfare—the active expression of the "graduated deterrent" conception—will prove to have been well-founded.

When the interests in the outcome of the conflict are not limited but are world-wide, however, the struggle quickly becomes one between the two power blocs, and there will be an inevitable progression from "conventional" weapons to "tactical" atomic weapons and then to the A-bomb and the H-bomb in general destruction.

The conference that is now meeting in London will, it may be hoped, provide a cooling-off period before the steps are taken that will bring to an end the era that we mark with the letters "A.D." and the beginning of a new and painful era dating from the great explosions.

If there is such a cooling-off period, Britain will have time to consider that even the possibility of a future for mankind is now based upon the shifting sands of traditional ideas of power and might in foreign relationships, and to begin to formulate new ideas of an unarmed diplomacy.

Suez and the revolt against the West

LETTER FROM USA

by A. J. Muste

A FEW days ago I received a letter from one of our leading intellectuals, not a pacifist and a fairly vigorous anti-Communist, which contained this astonishing statement: "All the Kremlin need do is to hold on for a decade or so and the world will be theirs."

He ascribed this prospect of easy victory for the Communist bloc to the policy "if it can be called such, not only of the US but of the entire West," a policy he characterised as "inept and stupid."

The way in which the West—in this case the British and French governments even more than the American—is reacting to Nasser's nationalisation of the Suez Canal bears out my correspondent's apprehension in the most striking fashion.

NO MORAL POSITION

There is no doubt something high handed about the Egyptian Premier's behaviour.

He is plainly very angry and given to inflammatory rhetoric in a situation where his people do not need much to set their hearts afame.

There is probably ground for questioning the legality of some aspects of his programme relative to operation of the Canal.

But objective commentators seem to think that in itself the act of nationalising the Canal is within the bounds of accepted international behaviour.

To date nothing has been done to interfere with shipping, except the continuance of the interdict against

Israeli shipping which has been a clear violation of proper practice but has not outraged the Western Big Three sufficiently to lead them to do anything about it which Arab nations might not like.

Sure, therefore, for this exception which the Western powers are in no moral position to bring into the present discussion, Nasser has done nothing to cast doubt on his intention or ability to run the Canal in the public interest of the community of nations provided Western governments are willing to be co-operative in the matter of technical personnel while Egyptian replacements are being trained.

It is not even necessary to read between the lines—it is all in the heavy print of the official communiques and especially of the speeches in Parliament to see that what so outrages the Western governments is Nasser's assertion of nationalism and independence; the further revolt against the West which his example may inspire in Algeria and elsewhere; the threat to Europe's oil supplies from the Middle East; and the uneasy surmise that the Kremlin is giving Nasser substantial backing and strengthening its own position in the Middle East.

In other words, Britain and France are faced with the prospect of another unfavourable shift in the power picture.



THE long and reasoned reply of the Russian Government to the invitation to attend the Suez Canal Conference is something that should be thought about carefully.

There is nothing of the vehemence that used to be found in Russian statements on international issues. It is a calm and detached statement of the issues involved and the fact that there is implied a heavy condemnation of the steps that Britain and France have taken, with the ready acquiescence of the US—although later the Pentagon seems to have been having some second thoughts on the matter—can only be felt to be justified by anybody who does not discount any pronouncement by Russia before it is made.

There is nothing in this statement that could not have been said by Mr. Nehru if he had developed his views on the subject at similar length. What is here set forth will represent the views of the whole of the "uncommitted" nations, and while it can be taken for granted that it will also be supported by those who are committed to the Russian bloc, there will be no such unanimity among those who are associated with the Western bloc.

The plain fact of the matter is that in its first reaction to the action of the Egyptian Government, the British Government, encouraged by the French, lost its head.

The Conference of the Powers will provide time for it to recover itself, but it must not be expected that Britain can come out of this business without a somewhat crestfallen aspect.

Helped by the moderate statement that accompanied Colonel Nasser's refusal to be represented at the Conference the Egyptians have scored a victory in this matter before the talks begin.

Eisenhower to Bulgaria

THE letter from President Eisenhower to Marshal Bulganin seems unfortunately to confirm the most uncharitable interpretation that can be put upon the attitude of the US Government since Russia accepted a "ceiling" of 2,500,000 for the major powers.

It should be remembered that Russia had previously accepted a proposal for a maximum of 1,500,000, which equally was initiated by the West and that the US then retreated from this proposal. President Eisenhower evidently attaches considerable importance to his letter and as there is a careful omission of any reference to the Russian acceptance of this later substantially modified proposal it is to be feared that the American desire is to bury this too.

There is, of course, a heavy emphasis upon this open skies proposal, the case for which is argued with a silly-clever disingenuousness, for if the Russians are forced to give their basic reasons for their non-acceptance this can only be done through the admission of the obvious fact that the Russian order is much more

But this means being licked at their own game, the colonial game played aggressively for so many decades in the past and now being played defensively and hence often hysterically.

They and the US wanted to show Nasser who was boss and to make him realise how naughty it was to play footsie with the Kremlin, by withdrawing any tender of aid in building the Aswan Dam, the key to Egypt's future economic development.

It would seem that even a little reflection would have taught Dulles, Eden and Mollet that the time for this method of pedagogy has passed.

THE WEST WILL LOSE

When Nasser now teaches them that lesson in turn, what happens?

Preparation, of all things, for military action to "impose" a solution in "the interest of all" on Egypt if such a solution is not "voluntarily" accepted at an international conference to be convened in London, August 16.

Thus the performance in which the West can hardly win and the Soviet Union can hardly lose is staged once again.

Even if Nasser backs down in a drastic sense, which is most unlikely, the West can only be more unpopular in Arab lands and Russia more popular.

If Nasser stands his ground, either the West must back down and suffer a further loss in prestige, or risk war.

● ON PAGE FIVE

after taking a period of ten hours in which to study them, it found that all those under charge were guilty.

One would like to have been present to follow the mental processes of the members of this jury as they arrived at this conclusion.

We should find it entertaining to listen to an exposition from the members of the jury coming new to Marx of the first profound section of "Capital" dealing with commodities after they had spent an afternoon and evening on it; but doubtless this was skipped and the members of the jury occupied themselves in looking for implicating texts.

It must be said, however, that Marxists themselves—and not only Communists—provide a good deal of justification for this type of ridiculous procedure. So many of them treat Marx in the way the less intelligent sectarians treat the Bible, finding the principal use in his writings in a logic-chopping treatment of texts and their exegesis. The writings of Marx, like the Scriptures, are attractive not only to thinkers. They make a strong appeal to minds that find thought a burden and prefer to substitute a search for suitable texts that may be quoted.

It is more than time that men ceased to be "Marxists", however great the help they may get from Marx's powerful mind. It is the basic error from which stems "the cult of personality". It is to be observed that even in the speech of Khrushchev throwing light on the truth of the Stalin era, not only does the cult of the holy Marx remain intact, but the cult of the holy Lenin is added to it.

Test U.S. further

WE believe, nevertheless, that the

Russians would do well to

accept the Eisenhower proposal and

see what happens.

They should draw the moral from the fate of the proposals for maxima to the armed forces that they have agreed to accept. Immediately the US Government has started to hedge. We believe that the same thing could quite easily happen with regard to President Eisenhower's "open skies" proposal.

It has still to be ascertained whether President Eisenhower's proposal would receive the endorsement of Congress if its full implications had to be faced. The Russian Government might do well to find out.

A JURY AND MARX

A NEW development in trial by

jury has recently been recorded

in the USA.

Six people were under charge of seeking to overthrow the Government. The evidence against them did not seem to be adequate, but they apparently admitted that they were Marxists. The jury therefore sent

out for the works of Karl Marx, and

covered by the United States

Atomic Energy Commission.

This is what its great navy was for.

The British, together with other

governments, have just been noti-

free to enter a great area of the

Pacific that had been placed "out of

bounds" by the U.S. Government.

The US Atomic Energy Com-

mision has announced that it is now

safe for ships and aeroplanes to enter the

zone which has been forbidden as a

potential danger area during the test-

ing of this year's series of A-bombs

and H-bombs.

The prohibited area covered

375,000 square miles, a considera-

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RELIGIOUS NEWS AND VIEWS

a monthly column by

STUART MORRIS

The Bishops and hanging

THE bench of Bishops did not make a good showing in the debate on Capital Punishment in the House of Lords. Although most of the Bishops entitled to sit and vote as Lords Spiritual supported the second reading, of those who spoke only the Bishops of Chichester, Exeter and Manchester stressed the need for abolition.

Neither of the two Archbishops are abolitionists and they only gave qualified approval of the Measure at that stage in the hope that the Bill would be subsequently amended and modified.

The Archbishop of Canterbury condemned as mistaken the belief that the death penalty was always unchristian and wrong, and accepted the doctrine that the State had the right in the name of God and society to impose the death penalty.

The Archbishop of York described as a fallacy the assumption that the New Testament disallows the taking of life by the State whether for justice or for the protection of its own citizens from violence. Indeed the basis on which the Archbishops supported a modified form of capital punishment is the same as that which enables them to approve of participation in a "just war."

Though the Archbishop of York could suggest that it was naive (if not worse) to concentrate on stressing the law of forgiveness and the law of love, the fact remains that they are the overriding considerations in the teaching of Christ.

It is interesting to speculate whether Church leaders would have so constantly set themselves up as the guardians of the legal rights of the State if there had never been the alliance of Church and State.

As it is the voice of the Church sounds so little different to the voice of Caesar, even in the House of Lords, where it might have been supposed that those, whose only right to speak there derives from their spiritual office, would have been more concerned to set a limit to the claims of the State by asserting without qualification the overriding obligations of the Law of Love.

Christian integrity

THE Vatican radio has recently been broadcasting in all Central and Eastern European languages a letter addressed by the Pope to the persecuted cardinals, bishops, priests and laity, in which his Holiness urged them to continue to show strength and loyalty in the spiritual struggle in which "they may be glorious victims but shall never be defeated."

The Pope is consoled to find that "very many are ready to sacrifice everything, even life and liberty, rather than endanger the integrity of the Catholic religion."

Because war is incompatible with the teaching of Christ and the purpose of God, approval of war under any circumstances must endanger the integrity of the Christian religion.

The readiness to sacrifice life and liberty, if necessary, in meeting violence with non-violent resistance rather than a willingness to compromise and accept war as the lesser of two evils is the only way to maintain Christian integrity and ensure the fulfillment of the purpose of God.

Morality or expediency?

THE Editor of the Catholic Herald has taken special steps to advise Catholics to consider with care the proposal of the Soviet Foreign Minister that all further nuclear tests should be banned.

He regrets that the initiative has come from the Communist and not from the free countries who claim to live by Christian ideals but says that there is no reason for turning down the proposal!

He adds that the morality of the use of

● ON PAGE FIVE

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Ian Dixon, Secretary of the Pacifist Youth Action Group, speaking at an "Objective Peace" meeting at Salisbury on July 7.

WOMEN FROM NINE COUNTRIES

From Margaret Tims

THE Friends' Meeting House in Birmingham was filled on July 27 to hear women from nine countries address a public meeting during the Thirteenth Triennial International Congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Professor Dame Kathleen Lonsdale, FRS, President of the British Section of the League presided.

Mrs. Narayanaswamy (India), a social worker and Secretary of the Madras branch of the League, brought greetings from the land of Mahatma Gandhi. "Gandhi has given us the weapon of non-violence," she said.

"We achieved independence through non-violence and we propose to maintain our independence through non-violence, and to help others to do the same."

Mme. Yvonne See (France) is a writer who has also studied philosophy and painting. She spoke as a woman. From the time of Adam and Eve, men and women desired to possess knowledge.

All discovery was double-edged and could be used to destroy or to heal.

"Everything comes back to human conscience," she said, and the divorce between knowledge and conscience could not continue much longer.

Miss Tano Jodai (Japan) is President of the Japan Women's University and of the Japanese Section of the WILPF.

In England, as in Japan, there was the same need for a new, constructive education for the new, atomic age.

Doukhobors linked to WRI

THE Union of Doukhobors of Canada have affiliated with the War Resisters International. The Doukhobors' ancestors left Russia during the Czarist regime, in protest against militarisation, and settled in Canada.

The decision to affiliate with the WRI was made at the Eighth Annual Convention of the Doukhobors, held in Calgary, Alberta, on July 7-9.

Attending the convention were representatives from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

The Doukhobors reaffirmed their belief in non-violence as a method for settling world and local problems, and their objection to the policy of universal conscription, whether in peace-time or war.

Capital punishment, they declared, should be abolished.

On questions of colour bar, they condemned the policy of apartheid, and of all other similar prejudicial policies designed to give an unfair advantage to one man against another.

Freedom of speech on the air was stressed—it was resolved that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation should allow minority groups more free radio time in the interests of better understanding.

An interesting feature of the discussions and resolutions was the attitude taken by the community of Doukhobors toward present-day education.

FREE FROM HATE

Because public and high schools "teach" war and genocide, the Doukhobors have refrained from sending their children to such schools.

They have argued that under the present United Nations Convention, genocide is a crime. Genocide is defined by the convention as acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethical, racial or religious group.

Of elementary and secondary education, the Doukhobors said that they tended to leave the child vulnerable to indoctrination and a false feeling of narrow patriotism.

It was therefore resolved that education in schools should be free from any emphasis on the glorifications of human practices such

No conscription for E. Germany

From HENRY HOLM

THE East German Government announced two days before Bonn's Parliament was due to vote on raising an army of half-a-million men for the Federal Republic, that the National Army would be reduced from 120,000 to 90,000, and that there would be no conscription.

This, incidentally, solved the problem of the conscientious objectors whose numbers were multiplying rapidly throughout the East Zone.

The following first-hand story shows why Moscow has decided not to take the risks obviously involved in forcing East Germans to serve against their will. The Russians prefer to rely on their own Russian forces.

Helmut, aged 24, works in a garment factory in the Soviet zone and is known to be a vocal anti-militarist. He refused to work on military uniforms for women and soon found he had a large following among the workers. A delegation informed the plant foreman of their refusal and found that he was in agreement with them.

He merely turned the case over to the factory representative of the Communist Party.

The latter, instead of rising in anger and threatening punishment, merely stated that he could understand the delegation's views, while warning them, however, that a Government investigation might ensue.

Two days later an order came to suspend all work on the uniforms and to put a completely different line of garments into production. No investigation took place, the workers were never molested, and not many weeks elapsed before the East German Government announced with considerable fanfare that there would be no conscription.—WAP.

Non-violent defence

CECIL HINSHAW, a former president of William Penn College, and secretary-designate for peace education for the American Friends (Quakers) Service Committee, after talking at Sacramento recently, received a telephone call from a reporter of a local newspaper. "During the first part of your talk last night," he said, "I thought it was the craziest thing I had ever heard. But as you went along you answered all my questions. What you said makes a lot of sense."

The reporter went on to urge Hinshaw to try to get his concept of non-violent national defence published in Reader's Digest. When Hinshaw's new pamphlet on the subject is available, the reporter plans to review it in his newspaper.

WAR: WE SAY NO

AS you read this the international conference on the problems connected with the Suez Canal will be in session. This is not the place to comment on the situation except to say that we will all be hoping that wise counsels will prevail.

We are quite certain that it is not by the threat or use of force but only by the full application of pacifist principles that justice can be done and peace prevail.

Whatever the result of the conference we will stand firm against the use of violence or any action which would involve the world in war.

When a situation like this arises we should be grateful for the witness of pacifists in the past who have helped to undermine the traditional belief in the efficacy of violence.

Glad, too, that there is a fellowship which really stands for the peaceful settlement of disputes and can point out to the Government where we believe they are wrong.

So I ask you to help and encourage us in our work, especially at this time, and express your belief in the application of pacifist principles to the Suez Canal dispute by sending us a generous contribution to Headquarters Fund.

STUART MORRIS,
General Secretary.

Our aim for 1956: £1,150
Amount received to date: £624

Donations to the Peace Pledge Union, which are used for the work of the PPU, should be sent marked "Headquarters Fund," to the PPU Treasurer at Dick Sheppard House, Endsleigh Street, London, W.C.1.

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MUSTE

FROM
PAGE TWO

The Soviet strategists have in any case nothing to lose and may gain immensely. They face no such risks, it is being correctly pointed out here, as in the Korean War or the Berlin Blockade of 1948.

If the storm is somewhat weathered without too obvious loss of face for the West, it will be abundantly clear that it was because the Soviet Union did not want the crisis to get out of hand, and so its reputation as peacemaker in contrast to the "troublemakers" of the capitalist imperialist world will be enhanced.

It is once again apparent that the "in-between" and so-called underdeveloped nations occupy an increasingly important position and that the main hope for peace is in a truly independent "third way" policy.

It is in this context saddening that the French Socialist Party should actually be the chief group in the French government and that the British Labour Party should, as it is reported here, be "ranged firmly behind Sir Anthony Eden in the policy of firmness towards Nasser."

It is, on the other hand, heartening to a good many hero that the Tribune in London should be calling for a "stop to this Suez madness" and that Aneurin Bevan should make the proposal of "world control for all the commercial waterways."

Panama incidentally has not been invited to the London Conference!

Cheers for the Manchester Guardian also for asserting that "at present there is no possible warrant for using force."

CHINESE TROOPS AND BURMA

It is well in order to keep the picture of the continuous power conflict in perspective to point out that several hundred Chinese Communist troops are occupying territory on the not clearly defined border of Burma.

This serves the immediate purpose of the Communist bloc to keep things stirred up in more than one place at a time.

Most importantly, the Chinese move is intended presumably to bring pressure on former Premier U Nu of Burma and on his party which still holds office. U Nu has tried as hard as any political figure in the world to follow a neutral course; but he has since early this year been disturbed by Communist infiltration in his country.

U Nu, as Peace News readers will recall, resigned the premiership a couple of months ago because he wished at least for a time to devote his energies to building his own Socialist party.

For the devout Buddhist that he is, he used very forceful and picturesque language recently against the Communist infiltration: "One main problem arises from the existence of those inside the country who have no compunction about playing the part of stooges, spies, fifth columnists and veritable sons of bitches for distant aunts."

Could not a free, unified and unarmed Germany be a step to world disarmament?

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1. Send notices to arrive no later than Monday morning.

2. Include: Date, TOWN, Thus, Place (hall, street); nature of event; speaker, organizer (and secretary's address).

Thursday, August 30

LEYTONSTONE 1-8 p.m.; Friends Mtg. Ho., Bush Rd. Group discussion, PPU.

Saturday, September 1

RUGBY 1: Pacifist Demonstration, PPU.

Saturday, September 15

LONDON, N.W.11: London Area Garden Party, King Alfred School, North End Rd. Peace Pledge Union.

Sunday, September 16

BELLINGHAM 1: 8 p.m.; St. Dunstan's Hall, Brains Trust on Peace and War. Rev. Anthony Bailey, MA (A.P.P.), Ronald Malone, BA (Fellowship Party) and others, Fellowship Party.

Sunday, August 19

KENT 1: 1.30 p.m.; Countess Stones, Near Open Air Nature Service. Rev. Hayes, "To be a Pilgrim," Tea at Kent Friary. Meet at 10 a.m., Platform Victoria Stn. Bring lunch. Visitors Welcome. PPU Religion Commission.

FRIDAYS

SIMPSON 7.15 p.m.; Shipley Group in Labour Party Room, Westgate, Shipley.

SATURDAYS

LIVERPOOL 1: 8 p.m.; Pier Head, Open-air Liverpool and District Peace Board.

SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS

LONDON 1: Weekend Workcamps, cleaning and redecorating the homes of old-age pensioners. IVSP, 19 Penbridge Villas, W.11.

SUNDAYS

GLASGOW 1: Open-air mtg. Queens Park, Victoria Rd. 7.45 p.m.; Glasgow PPU.

SYDNEY PARK 1: 4 p.m.; Pacifist Youth Group. Every Sunday, PYAG.

TUESDAYS

MANCHESTER 1: 1.2 p.m.; Delegates Blitz Christian pacifist open-air mtg. Local church ministers and others. MPV.

THURSDAYS

LEYTONSTONE 8 p.m.; Friends Mtg. Ho., Bush Rd. E.11 Group, PPU.

LONDON, W.C.1 1.35-1.45 p.m.; Church of the Marry, Queen St. Weekly Peace Service of Intercession for World Peace. Conducted by Clergy and laymen of various denominations.

LONDON, W.C.1 7.30 p.m.; Dick Sheppard Ho., 6 Redditch St. Pacifist Youth Group.

Letters to the Editor

August 17, 1956—PEACE NEWS—5

What are pacifists doing?

WHEN Sybil Morrison does not see the Family Service Units as "non-violent," since hundreds of non-pacifists believe in and take part in, this kind of work (my italics) she equates pacifism with non-violent resistance against oppression.

Then later in her letter she infers that the British pacifist cannot express his pacifism through non-violent resistance because in Britain there is no oppression.

Surely both assumptions are incorrect.

Non-violent resistance to oppression does not cease to be non-violent because non-pacifists partake in it.

Few of the Indians who followed Gandhi's lead were convinced individual pacifists, and this is probably true wherever non-violent resistance on the Gandhian pattern is being practised today.

It is on this fact rather than on any other that the Third Way Movement bases its belief that pacifists and non-pacifists can be brought together in what may ultimately become a mass movement (in the best sense) with much better chances of preventing war than pacifists on their own can ever hope to achieve.

Secondly, there is oppression in Britain today, even though few are conscious of it as such.

There may be few unemployed, but there are homeless, cold, hungry and neglected people enough, and much of this misery is directly attributable to war expenditure.

In the United States (yes, even in white communities) means to resist precisely the same sort of oppression have been devised, notably refusal to pay taxes.

Next door to us in Wales pacifists and non-pacifists in Plaid Cymru (The Welsh Party) have shown another way to conduct non-violent resistance—by lying in the way of Army transport.

The study of non-violent techniques, the use of imagination in adapting known methods to British conditions, and experiment with new methods where old ones fail is a long overdue exercise here in England.

Let us hope that Reginald Reynolds's article will inspire pacifists and non-pacifist readers of Peace News to get together this winter as never before, and that Sybil Morrison will refresh the springs of her oratory by joining in the study and the debate.

JOHN BANKS,

Hon. Secretary, Third Way Movement.

12 High St.,
London, N.W.3.

I have no copy of my own article handy, but I am amazed at what Sybil Morrison found in it. Did I really say that a person's name had to "end with an 'O' or an 'I' or a 'Ski,'" if he or she aims to be effective?

It sounds very odd. And did I say pacifists were to fight, or that they should not sell Peace News?

Indeed I would suggest that it is very unlikely that the Canal question would have been dealt with in this particular fashion if it had not been for the prior attitude of the Western countries.

Roy Sherwood agrees that the action of the Egyptian Government was perfectly legal. The general consensus of enlightened opinion in this country is that it is in the vital interests of Egypt that the Canal should continue to operate effectively.

He also states that the question of international control is being treated with too much importance. Why then does Roy Sherwood's "pacifist" seek reprisals of this nature; what is his pacifist trying to force from Egypt?

Mr. Sherwood's article seems to imply that he speaks in the name of the pacifist movement. This impression is likely to be strengthened by the Peace Pledge Union's reproduction of the article as a leaflet.

I must say I can find no distinctive approach in Roy Sherwood's article. A pacifist policy should be based on love and understanding and compassion to assist in raising the miserable standards of the Egyptian masses.

In my mind the pacifist who equates the

MORRIS

* FROM

PAGE THREE

H-bombs is, to say the least, in question, and that "this being so, there seems to be every reason why Catholics should support the Soviet initiative if, as seems at first sight, the proposal involves no danger of the Soviet Union gaining through it any military ascendancy over the free world."

Does the Editor of the Catholic Herald really mean that Catholics are only to do what is right when they run no risks thereby?

To allow what it is right for a Christian to do to depend on how it effects Soviet plans is to substitute expediency for morality and to give the last word to Bulgaria and not to Christ.

A moral revolution

FOR the first time since the Communist revolution in China in 1949 a Bishop of the "Holy Catholic Church of China" is visiting Britain.

Bishop Ting Kwoi Hsun of Chekiang is here primarily to take part in the Consultative Committee which plans the agenda for the Lambeth Conference in 1958.

The Bishop has stated that for the Chinese Christian the changes which have taken place are not regarded merely as a change of dynasty. They had produced a profound moral revolution and can only be thought of as part of the purpose of God.

It is hoped that all the seventeen members of the Chinese House of Bishops will attend the Lambeth Conference and there is no doubt that they will have a valuable contribution to make.

Tolerant or persecution

THE Archbishop of York who recently lead the Anglican delegation to a conference with the heads of the Russian Church, regards the visit as worth while and hopes that it has helped the two Churches to grow closer together.

Though he found freedom of religion within the Soviet Union no religious teaching of any kind was allowed in schools and active anti-religious propaganda was carried on in many ways by the Communist party.

In certain places the Church today is living under circumstances similar to those which the early Christians experienced.

It would appear that effective Christian witness may be in greater danger from the toleration of the Church than from its persecution by the State.

question of the Suez with a normal business transaction, "withdrawal of custom on the occasion of a change of ownership," and who is willing for negotiation to take place under these circumstances has got the whole question out of perspective.

The question boils down to whether a pacifist policy based on voluntary suffering and conversion of one's opponent coupled with a burning desire to seek the truth is practical. Roy Sherwood's article seemed to suggest otherwise.

RON KEATING.

43 Milford Gardens,
Wembley, Middlesex.

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MEETINGS

SMOKING AND CANCER. Morris Mbr. Monday, August 20, 7.30 p.m. Caston Hall, Westminster. London Natural Health Society, 2a.

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